Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 18, 20, 32, 40, 41 and 42. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A solution comprising a plurality of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity ~~but not carrying a FRET donor entity,~~ wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair, wherein the FRET acceptor entity and the FRET donor entity of the FRET pair are on different oligonucleotides, wherein the first and second oligonucleotides are single-stranded over their full length before hybridization.

19. (Previously Presented) The solution of claim 18, wherein the FRET donor entity and the second entity are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the first oligonucleotide.

20. (Currently Amended) A solution comprising 3 oligonucleotides, the solution comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

~~wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET acceptor entity does not carry a FRET donor entity~~ wherein the FRET acceptor entity and the FRET donor entity of the FRET pair are on different oligonucleotides.

21. (Previously Presented) The solution of claim 20, wherein the FRET donor entity and the second entity are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity.

22. (Previously Presented) The solution according to claim 18 or claim 20, further comprising a nucleic acid sample.

23. (Previously Presented) The solution according to claim 18 or claim 20, further comprising at least one other component selected from a group consisting of a nucleic acid amplification primer, a template dependent nucleic acid polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and a buffer for template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction.

24-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A solution comprising a plurality of fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair, wherein the first and second oligonucleotides are single-stranded over their full length before hybridization.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The solution of claim 32, wherein the FRET donor entity and the nitroindole moiety are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the first oligonucleotide.

35. (Previously Presented) A solution comprising 3 oligonucleotides, the solution comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The solution of claim 35, wherein the FRET donor entity and the nitroindole moiety are carried on adjacent nucleotides of the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity.

38. (Previously Presented) The solution according to claim 32 or claim 35, further comprising a nucleic acid sample.

39. (Previously Presented) The solution according to claim 32 or claim 35, further comprising at least one other component selected from a group consisting of a nucleic acid amplification primer, a template dependent nucleic acid polymerase, at least one deoxynucleoside triphosphate and a buffer for template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction.

40. (Currently Amended) A solid support comprising a plurality of FRET hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity ~~but not carrying a FRET donor entity,~~ wherein the FRET acceptor entity and the FRET donor entity of the FRET pair are on different oligonucleotides, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair, wherein the first and second oligonucleotides are single-stranded over their full length before hybridization.

41. (Currently Amended) A solid support comprising 3 oligonucleotides, the solid support comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries at least one second entity, said second entity being a compound which is capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

~~wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET acceptor entity does not carry a FRET donor entity~~ wherein the FRET acceptor entity and the FRET donor entity of the FRET pair are on different oligonucleotides.

42. (Currently Amended) A solid support comprising a plurality of FRET hybridization probes comprising:

a first single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET donor entity and a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity; and

a second single-stranded oligonucleotide carrying a FRET acceptor entity, wherein the FRET donor entity of the first oligonucleotide and the FRET acceptor entity of the

second oligonucleotide are a FRET pair, wherein the first and second oligonucleotides are single-stranded over their full length before hybridization.

43. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising the solution according to any one of claim 18, claim 20, claim 32 or claim 35.

44. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising 3 oligonucleotides, comprising a first oligonucleotide and a second oligonucleotide capable of acting as a pair of amplification primers for a template dependent nucleic acid amplification reaction, further characterized in that said first oligonucleotide and a third oligonucleotide are each labeled with one corresponding member of a FRET pair consisting of a FRET donor entity and a FRET acceptor entity,

wherein the oligonucleotide carrying the FRET donor entity further carries a nitroindole moiety capable of quenching fluorescence of said FRET donor entity.

45-49. (Canceled)